2020 KIPA-UN DESA Forum

"Public Governance and Innovative Partnerships for Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Concept Note

13:00-17:30 KST (GMT+9)
8 December 2020

Co-organized by

Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented crisis and aggravated social inequalities, reversing decades of progress on poverty eradication and jeopardizing the prospect of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While combating the COVID-19 pandemic at the frontline, public institutions in many countries are not equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, resources, and capacities in response to the multi-faceted challenges. These challenges and the societal inequalities call for revisiting the inclusiveness and accountability of public institutions in response to the COVID-19. All countries are urged to enhance effective public governance, leverage ICTs and digital government, and forge innovative partnerships, which are the most important components in the response systems to address COVID-19.

Effective public governance, through better national-to-local coordination for policy coherence and a streamlined process of stakeholder engagement for inclusive and participatory decision-making process, is essential in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for mobilizing whole-of-society efforts and building public trust. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the crucial role of local governments as the first responders for delivering essential services. They play an essential role in guaranteeing rights protection via local public service provision, including to the most vulnerable populations living in informal settlements or slums within and around cities as well as older persons, women, children, persons with disabilities, migrants, and refugees.

Leveraging ICTs and digital government can not only facilitate contact tracing and implement social distancing policy, but they can also effectively support co-creating and co-designing public services and better engagement of vulnerable groups in the decision-making process, ensure provision and delivery of essential public services including education, health, water and sanitation, social protection and employment to citizens, and strengthen government transparency and accountability for ensuring essential public services.

Forging innovative partnerships, especially at local levels, with local communities, private sector, and civil society organizations is critical for effective response to COVID-19. Governments alone cannot address the huge challenges of COVID-19, and the whole-of-society approach to engaging all stakeholders is required.

In 2020, the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), an integral part of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), has organized several capacity development webinars on building effective public governance, leveraging ICTs and digital government and innovative partnerships for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, UNPOG has also been developing and pilot testing three Training Toolkits, as part of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, on effective national-to-local governance, government innovation for social inclusion of vulnerable groups, and strengthened risk-informed governance and frontier technologies for disaster risk reduction and resilience to support the capacity development of Member States in their response to COVID-19.

Since this year, the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) has conducted the joint research project on *COVID-19 Response Systems and International Cooperation*, which mainly analyzes four ASEAN countries' COVID-19 response systems and explores the future cooperation at both national and regional levels. This research project is part of KIPA's efforts

to support the New South Policy[1] initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Against this background, the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) and UNPOG of DPIDG/UN DESA are co-organizing the Forum on **"Public Governance and Innovative Partnerships for Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic"**. The objective of this Forum is to share lessons learned and exchange good practices in innovating public governance, leveraging ICTs and digital government, and forging partnerships in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is part of the continued collaboration between UNPOG and KIPA to co-organize the Annual Forum to address the public governance and innovative partnerships. The Forum will be held virtually, with a limited number of onsite participants.

Objectives

I. Introduce and compare different country response systems including strategies, institutional frameworks, and policy implementation for addressing COVID-19;
II. Share country practices in public governance innovation and leveraging ICTs and digital government for addressing the COVID-19 challenges;
III. Discuss the critical roles of local governments and innovative local partnerships for effective and inclusive response to COVID-19; and
IV. Exchange innovative solutions and suggest recommendations in innovating public governance and building local partnership for resilience and building back better.

Format, Structure, and Methodology

The virtual Forum is composed of three Sessions. Each Session shares the same structure of thematic presentations, panel discussions, and the interactive Q&A discussion. It will run for 4 hours and 30 minutes. The event will be organized using video conferencing tools such as Zoom Webinar. The Forum will be conducted in English. English-Korean simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

The outcome report will be posted on the UNPOG website after the conclusion of the Forum.

Thematic Focus

Session I. The COVID-19 Response Systems in New Southern Policy Countries and Korea (KIPA)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all countries have been facing an unprecedented threat to their development achievements, human life, and social cohesion. Developing countries have also been facing socio-economic hardships due to fragile health care systems. To mitigate the pervasive impact of COVID-19, it is pivotal to strengthen public governance and public institutions, implement innovative measures, and mobilize whole-of-government and whole-of-society efforts to contain the spread of the pandemic at all levels of the government.

The Moon Administration of the Republic of Korea has been implementing the New Southern Policy (NSP), which is a diplomatic initiative to strengthen Korea's ties with Southeast Asia and India. In this context, in 2020, KIPA has been conducting a comparative research on

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[1] http://www.nsp.go.kr/eng/main.do

COVID-19 Response Systems and International Cooperation in Korea and three NSP countries with an aim to promote better bilateral and regional cooperation.

This Session will introduce the case studies of Korea and three NSP countries, i.e., Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, in their responses to the COVID-19, with a focus on the strategy and policy implementation. These selected case studies also reviewed different policy actions, including delegation of authority, shared responsibilities across different government institutions, risk communications, and impact management of COVID-19.

This Session seeks to contribute to better strategies and responses to COVID-19 by analyzing success and failure factors in Korea and the three NSP countries. This Session will also help enhance international cooperation through building the cooperative quarantine scheme between Korea and NSP countries.

Session II. Public Governance Innovation for COVID-19 Response (UN DESA & KIPA)

Efforts by public institutions to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus have placed a spotlight on the critical role of effective and inclusive governance and on the relationship between the state and people.[2] The COVID-19 outbreak calls for effective, inclusive, and accountable public institutions and risk-informed governance with high agility to address disasters and public health emergencies. As public institutions are at the center of establishing response measures, they need to be fast, creative, effective, transparent, accountable, and inclusive. There is a need for a wide range of pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities that could yield important long-term results. Likewise, it is crucial to facilitate the transformation of the silo-based approach to public services.

As governments have been challenged to respond to emergencies caused by COVID-19, collaboration with other stakeholders and citizen engagement have generated innovative solutions and helped enhance public trust. Participatory response strategies, the development and use of new digital platforms and tools to deliver inclusive public services and enable engagement, including the collective development of digital tools and solutions (e.g., through crowdsourcing and hackathons), and the use of social media to connect with people are some of the approaches adopted in different countries.

Many countries have been spearheading with government innovation by deploying ICTs and digital government tools for health and wellbeing support, ensuring business continuity, and delivering uninterrupted digital services. One exemplary case is the Republic of Korea for its great achievements in government innovation by leveraging ICTs and digital government for addressing the COVID-19 challenges. So, this Session will share some insights and innovative practices from the Republic of Korea with regard to its effort in advancing government innovation and digital government to deal with COVID-19 with success and good impact.

ICTs and digital government have also significantly contributed to effective public governance in combatting COVID-19 in many countries, especially for national-local coordination and engagement of all stakeholders, through timely data and information collection and sharing across all levels of government.

This Session aims to contribute to sharing strategies, innovative cases, and lessons learned in

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[2] https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-75-covid-19-reaffirming-state-people-governance-relationships/

public governance innovation and leveraging ICTs and digital government for strengthening risk-informed governance and combatting COVID-19 as well as promoting regional and international cooperation.

Session III. The Role of Local Governance and Innovative Local Partnership in Response to COVID-19 (UN DESA)

The role of local governance, with local governments at its core, is essential in addressing the challenges of COVID-19. Local governments, especially city governments, have to fully engage local communities, businesses, civil society organizations and every citizen to come up with strategies and innovative solutions to COVID-19 in the local contexts. Particularly, local governments need to work in close collaboration with all local stakeholders to ensure essential public services and deliver emergency assistance to those vulnerable groups. To institute local governance, local governments require increased knowledge and skills to ensure institutional effectiveness and foster stakeholder engagement locally. Moreover, local governments often lack the information and capacity to address the significant challenges of COVID-19. In this regard, strengthening effective national-to-local governance for policy coordination, better coordinated resource mobilization and allocation at local and national levels, and technical and financial support between national and local and among local authorities are instrumental in addressing the challenges of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, this unprecedented crisis of COVID-19 has also fundamentally transformed the paradigm of partnership between local governments and businesses and other related stakeholders. Local businesses are not simply waiting for the call by local authorities for collaboration to address the myriad challenges. Local stakeholders have been very interactive with local authorities and many modes of innovative local technical or financial partnership have emerged, especially in cities, to support local authorities in deploying innovative solutions to address the COVID-19. Moreover, many city governments have been sharing their success stories and innovative solutions through city partnership platforms.

This Session seeks to share different strategies and policies for strengthening local governance and building innovative local partnership. This Session also aims to promote partnership building and cooperation among local authorities, especially city governments.

Target Audience

The target audience of the 2020 KIPA-UN DESA Forum includes government officials in Korea and from abroad, from both national and local government agencies, responsible for coordinating and leading the national efforts to fight COVID-19. The Forum also intends to involve government officials and experts working on social inclusion, SDG implementation, ICTs and digital government, government innovation, public health emergency management, or other relevant fields; as well as research institutes and think tanks, academia, civil society organizations, private sector, and regional/international organizations engaged in exploring solutions to address the COVID-19 crisis.

Co-organizers

Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)

KIPA is committed to researching the development and improvement of the administrative system. It collects and manages information and data related to public administration. It also

aims to contribute to national administrative development by promoting the exchange of information among domestic and overseas research institutes. KIPA has a vision of a 'vibrant research environment, leading the innovative and inclusive government', and it has a mission to lead scientific, autonomous, innovative research to devise public administration policy. KIPA promotes research for government innovation to realize social values, and it is mandated to foster leadership to lead the inclusive nation, expand research networks to lead future changes and strengthen research capacity, and establish an active organizational culture for everyone.

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

UN DESA holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat and works to promote the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA promotes capacity development as a link between global and regional processes and development at the country level. The mandate of DPIDG is to assist the Member States in fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative, and citizen-centered public governance, administration, and services for sustainable development. United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), as an integral part of UN DESA/DPIDG, is mandated to address the strengthening of the capacities of public administration in Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Africa to translate the SDGs and other internationally agreed goals into institutional arrangements, strategies, and programmes at country level.

Draft Agenda

13:00-13:30 Opening		
Moderator: Mr. Shin Kim, Director of Center for International Development and Cooperation, Korea Institute of Public Administration		
13:00-13:10	Opening Remarks	Mr. Seong-ho Ahn, President of KIPA
13:10-13:20	Opening Remarks	Mr. Bokyun Shim, Head of UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
13:20-13:30	Group Photo	
13:30-15:00 Session I. The COVID-19 Response Systems in New Southern Policy Countries and Korea (KIPA)		
Moderator: Mr. Shin Kim, Director of Center for International Development and Cooperation, Korea Institute of Public Administration		
13:30-13:45	Presentation 1	Ms. Magdelena L. Mendoza, Senior Vice-President for Program Operations, Development Academy of the Philippines
13:45-14:00	Presentation 2	Mr. Narun Popattanachai, Government Legal Counsel, Office of the Council of State, Thailand
14:00-14:15	Presentation 3	Ms. Erna Irawati, Head of the Center for Government Officials' Program and Policy Competency Development, National Institute of Public Administration, Indonesia
14:15-14:30	Presentation 4	Mr. Huck-ju Kwon, Professor, Seoul National University

14:30-14:45	Discussion	Mr. Kilkon Ko, Professor, Seoul National University Mr. Hyunwon Kim, Director-General of Climate Crisis and Pandemic Response Department, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
14:45-15:00		Q & A / Break

15:00-16:10 Session II. Public Governance Innovation for COVID-19 Response (UN DESA & KIPA)

Moderator: Ms. Ga-Young So, Associate Research Fellow, Center for International Development and Cooperation, Korea Institute of Public Administration

15:00-15:15	Presentation 1	Mr. M. Jae Moon, Dean, College of Social Sciences, Yonsei University
15:15-15:30	Presentation 2	Mr. Taewoo Nam, Professor, Sungkyunkwan University
15:30-15:45	Presentation 3	Mr. Samuel Danaa, Associate Capacity Development Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
15:45-16:00	Discussion	Mr. Louis Meuleman, Member, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration
16:00-16:10		Q & A / Break

16:10-17:30 Session III. The Role of Local Governance and Innovative Local Partnership in Response to COVID-19 (UN DESA)

Moderator: Ms. Mi Kyoung Park, Governance and Public Administration Officer, UNPOG/ DPIDG/ UN DESA

16:10-16:25	Presentation 1	Mr. Prabin Maharjan, Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
16:25-16:40	Presentation 2	Prof. Ajmer Singh Malik, President, Indian Public Administration Association, India
16:40-16:55	Presentation 3	Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat
16:55-17:10	Discussion	Mr. Martino Miraglia, Programme Officer, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat
17:10-17:30		Q & A

Closing

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